

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) released the following statement after the three committees with jurisdiction over the bill released draft legislation on national health care reform.

The House version of the bill includes language that would fix a four-decade-old problem that mislabels 14 California counties as "rural," meaning doctors are undercompensated for Medicare procedures. Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz are among those affected by this problem.

Rep. Farr's statement:

"Getting my GPCI language included in the national health reform bill is the first step in the process, but it's a huge one.

"There's still a lot of work to be done, but I'm confident that the process of educating members and staff in the House and Senate has been very effective, and they now realize just how important this issue is to our local seniors and doctors.

"For too long, seniors haven't had the access to health care they require and doctors haven't received the payments they deserve. I'm looking forward to this bill moving ahead."

For more information view the press release about Rep. Farr's GPCI Justice Act, which used during drafting of the House reform bill:

- http://www.farr.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=548

Also visit the three House committees in charge of the bill:

- <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
- <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
- <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>

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